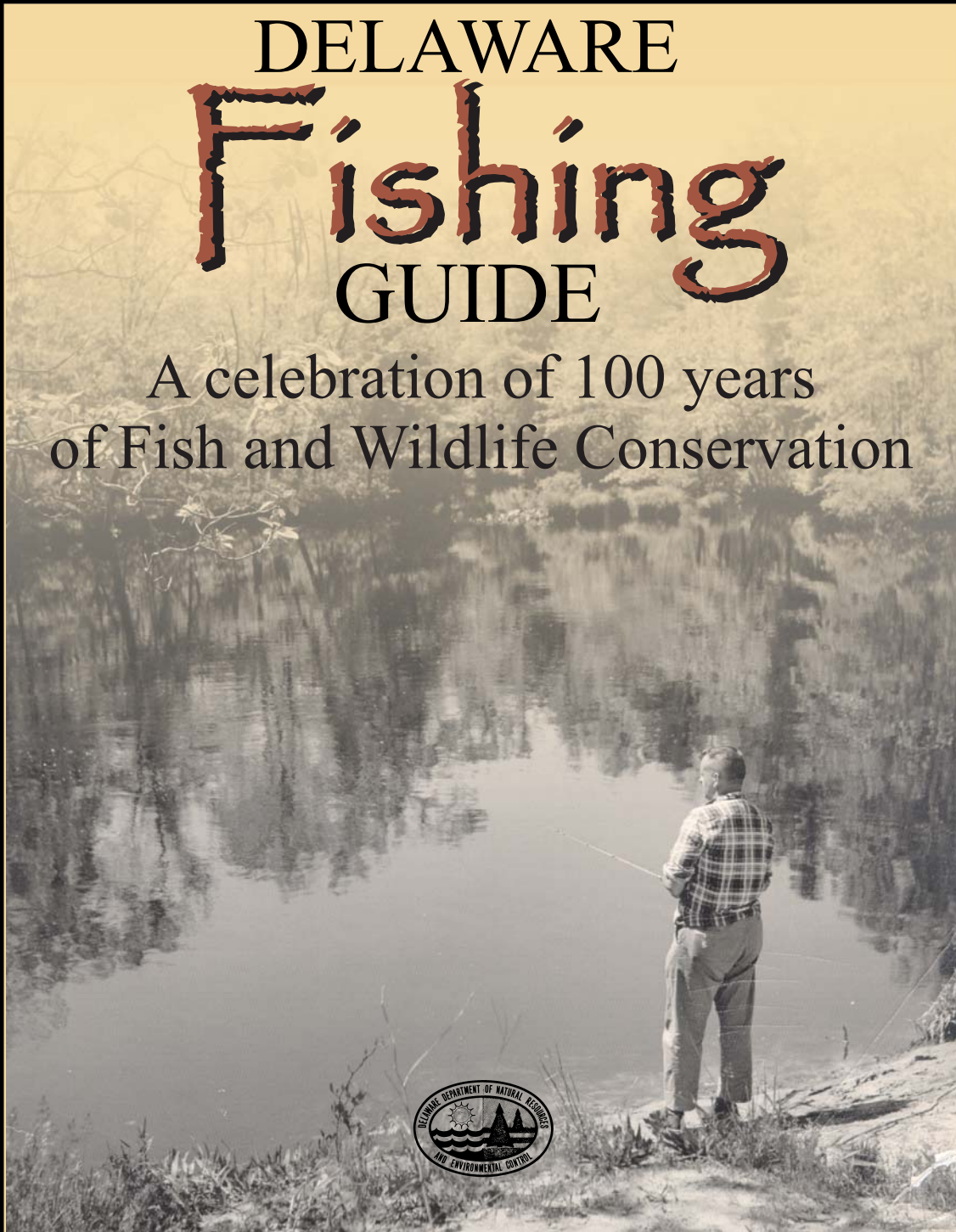


2011

DELAWARE Fishing GUIDE

A celebration of 100 years
of Fish and Wildlife Conservation



**Department of Natural
Resources & Environmental Control**
www.fw.delaware.gov



Photo by Joey Melvin

Go where the real wild things are!

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture's Delaware Forest Service invite you to discover some of Delaware's most unique wild places by taking advantage of free public access to our public lands. Here's just a few of the things you can do!

- Explore more than 60,000 acres in 20 state wildlife areas
- Enjoy 18,000 acres in three state forests
- Watch birds and wildlife
- Pack a picnic and enjoy the scenery
- Hike, bike and go horseback riding on trails
- Hunt upland game, fowl, game birds in season
- Launch from more than 50 boat access areas
- Sail, canoe, kayak and boat our ponds, rivers and bays
- Cast a line into tidal and non-tidal waters
- Fish or boat in more than 30 ponds

To learn more about recreational possibilities on Delaware public lands, please visit the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at www.fw.delaware.gov or the DDA Delaware Forest Service's website at <http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry>.

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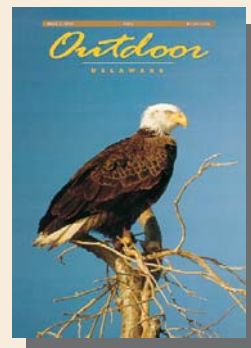
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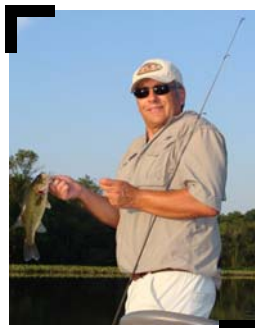




From the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife

On the 100 year anniversary of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, we are proud to provide the 2011 Delaware Fishing Guide. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the helpful fishing, crabbing, clamming, and boating safety information contained within the guide.

If you enjoy fishing, Delaware is where you want to be! Delaware provides a variety of quality fishing opportunities that I have personally enjoyed for over 30 years. You can experience the solitude of fishing our mill ponds, streams and tidal creeks, the family fun of crabbing and clamming in our estuaries, the challenge of the Delaware Bay and Inland Bays, or the adventure of the Atlantic Ocean.



David Saveikis, Director

The Division's professional staff is dedicated to helping you experience enjoyable and safe fishing trips. We provide vital scientific, construction, licensing, education, and administrative services to properly manage, conserve, and provide access to our fishery resources. Our fishing laws and regulations are designed to provide quality fishing -- both now and in the future -- and our courteous enforcement agents ensure public cooperation to conserve our fishery resources. Your license fees help support fisheries management and conservation and the many other services that we deliver to you.

Looking to the future, make sure you "take a kid fishing" so that we can pass on our fishing traditions and heritage to future generations who will benefit from our current conservation efforts. Wishing you "tight lines" this fishing season...

Maps for this publication were created by the Office of the Secretary's GIS section. Fish illustrations were drawn by Duane Raver, and the shark illustrations by Bob Jones. The cover photo is from DNREC's archives. A special thanks to the Delaware fishermen and DNREC staff who donated the historical pictures throughout this guide.

All of the information in this guide, and much more, may also be found on the Division's website www.fw.delaware.gov.

Doc. No. 40-05-03/11/01/01



"F.I.N." number

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"F.I.N." number

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Name _____ Name _____

Contact Information



Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control www.dnrec.delaware.gov

Division of Fish and Wildlife – www.fw.delaware.gov

F.I.N. number	1-800-432-9228
Fisheries Section, Dover	(302)-739-9914
Little Creek Fisheries Field Office	(302) 735-2960
Aquatic Resources Education Center	(302) 735-8652

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Section

Main Office	(302) 739-9913
Region 1 (New Castle & Kent Counties)	(302) 739-6139
Region 2 (Sussex County)	(302) 855-1901
24-hour hotline (KENTCOM)	(800) 523-3336
Boating Safety	(302) 739-9915
Ramp Certificates	(302) 739-9916
Boat Registration	(302) 739-9916
Recreational Fishing Licenses	(302) 739-9918

General Information

Freshwater Trout Program	(302) 739-9914
Non-tidal Fishing	(302) 739-9914 / (302) 735-8650
Tidal Fishing	(302) 739-9914/ (302) 735-2960
Fish Consumption Advisories	(302)-739-9914
Division Public Health	(302)-744-4546
Artificial Reef Program	(302) 735-2960
Fishing / Boating Access Areas	(302)-739-9914
Clamming	(302) 735-2960
Shellfish Health & Safety, Closures	(302) 739-9939
Crabbing	(302) 735-2960

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Before You Fish

Before you go fishing, crabbing, or clamming in Delaware you must:

- ◆ Purchase a 2011 Delaware fishing license and keep it with you while fishing (page 8)
- ◆ Get a free 2011 FIN number and keep it with you while fishing (page 8)
- ◆ If fishing for freshwater trout get a 2011 trout stamp and affix it to your license (page 13)

While fishing, crabbing, or clamming in Delaware, you must:

- ◆ Abide by size and bag limits (fishing limits - page 29-32, crabbing limits - pages 32, clamming limits - pages 32)
- ◆ Be aware of area and seasonal closures (page 27, 29-32, 51)

Please be aware that:

- ◆ Delaware does not have fishing license reciprocity with other states. You must have a Delaware fishing license to fish, crab or clam in Delaware.
- ◆ Delaware does not recognize Federal FIN number or FIN numbers from other states. You must have a free Delaware FIN (Page 8).

2011 License Fees

License Category	Resident	Non-resident
General Fishing License	\$8.50	\$20.00
7-day Tourist Fishing	NA	\$12.50
*Boat License 20 ft or less (optional)	\$40.00	\$40.00
*Boat License more than 20 ft (optional)	\$50.00	\$50.00
Head Boat License	\$300.00	\$600.00
Charter Boat License	\$150.00	\$300.00

*** Boat License** - The optional boat license for recreational fisherman covers the holder of the license, and all occupants in the boat, as do the charter boat and head boat licenses. A resident who purchases a Delaware boat-fishing license also will be given a single Delaware fishing license for their own use on those occasions that he or she may not be on the boat.

Non-resident - Any non-resident who is 16 years of age or older except persons covered by one of the exemptions is required to have a license to fish, clam, or crab in the waters of the State of Delaware. Non-residents may purchase a 7-consecutive day tourist fishing license.

What's New for 2011

FIN: If you purchase your fishing license through the DNREC on-line licensing system or at the main DNREC office in Dover, your FIN number will be automatically generated and will appear on your license with no further FIN registration necessary. If you purchase your license elsewhere, you will have to obtain your FIN number as described on page 8.

We have included a Quick Reference Pull Out Sheet of recreational size and creel limits that we hope anglers and recreational shellfishers will find convenient.



Black sea bass



Summer flounder

The limits for black sea bass, and summer flounder are listed as TBA (to be announced), as they are expected to change for the 2011 fishing season and were not available at the time of printing. Please stay up-to-date on these and other regulatory changes by visiting www.fw.delaware.gov.

The Delaware Sportfishing Tournament minimum entry weight for striped bass has been increased from 20 to 30 pounds due to increasing numbers of larger fish. Similarly, the minimum qualifying striped bass length for live releases was increased from 37 to 40 inches.



Striped Bass

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has approved Amendments to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring due to a decline in American shad and river herring stocks. All commercial and recreational shad fisheries along the East Coast are to be closed by January 1, 2013 and river herring fisheries closed by January 1, 2012 to improve potential future stock reproduction and recruitment. As a result, we anticipate changes to Delaware's American shad and river herring regulations in 2012, prior to the publication of our 2012 fishing guide. Anglers that catch these species should consult ww.fw.delaware.gov or contact the Division at (302) 739-9914 to confirm these changes prior to fishing in 2012. Note that the shad fishery on the Nanticoke River has been closed since 2000.

Fishing License Requirements and F.I.N. Number

A general fishing license is required **for fishing, crabbing, or clamming** in tidal and non-tidal water throughout the State of Delaware (see Fishing License Exemptions page 9). A fishing license may be obtained from the DNREC R&R building, on-line at www.fw.delaware.gov, or from over 100 license agents (most bait and tackle shops, sporting goods and hardware stores) throughout the state. A fishing license is valid through December 31 for the calendar year in which it was issued.

In addition to the general fishing license, all anglers (resident and non-resident) age 16 or older must obtain a free Fisherman Information Network (F.I.N.) number each year before **fishing** in tidal or non-tidal waters of Delaware. This **includes** those anglers exempt from obtaining a general fishing license. See these exemptions on page 9. If you **only** fish from a charter or head boat you do not need a F.I.N. number. Record your F.I.N. number in the spaces provided on your Delaware fishing license. If you are exempt from the license requirement, be sure to record and carry your F.I.N. number with you when you are fishing. A F.I.N. number will be automatically assigned and printed on all fishing licenses issued online or sold at the R&R building.

The F.I.N. number can be obtained online (www.delaware-fin.com/), by automated telephone (1-800-432-9228), or for live operator/customer service: 1-866-447-4626. The F.I.N. number is mandatory and failure to provide a valid F.I.N. number to an enforcement agent will be treated the same as a failure to have a valid fishing license. The number that you are issued will be valid through December 31 for the calendar year in which it was issued. A F.I.N. number is not needed if you only plan to crab or clam.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will use the data obtained from the F.I.N. program to identify anglers for survey purposes. The program allows for better estimates of recreational landings, an important component of fisheries management.

All funds derived from the issuance of fishing licenses are dedicated to a special account for the purpose of matching and securing federal money allotted to Delaware under the provisions of the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act and cannot be diverted to other causes. Together, these funds support projects having as their purpose the restoration, conservation, management and enhancement of sportfish, and the provision for public use and benefits from these resources.

Fishing License Exemptions

The following are exemptions to the license provisions:

Surf Fishing Permit - Residents and non-residents are exempt from fishing license requirements if they are the operator of a vehicle with a valid Delaware surf fishing vehicle permit when that vehicle is located on a designated Delaware State Park beach. Other occupants of that vehicle are required to have a fishing license if they are fishing.

Seniors - Residents of the State of Delaware 65 years and older are exempt from fishing license requirements but must have proof of age and residency. A Complimentary Exempt Card can be requested free of charge by contacting the Division of Fish and Wildlife (302-739-9911). Non-resident seniors are not exempt.

Children - Children under the age of 16 are exempt.

Other Exemptions - Any resident who owns or lives on a farm in this state containing 20 or more acres and the members of his or her immediate family who **reside** on the farm may fish on that farm without a license.

A member of the armed forces who is a patient in a military hospital and submits a written statement signed by the patient's commanding officer certifying the nature of the disability and place of station.

Persons who are patients in any Veterans Administration facility in this State, or in any public hospital or sanitarium for the treatment of tuberculosis, or a patient in a rehabilitation hospital under the State Department of Health, provided such person carries identification which verifies his or her status as such a patient, shall not be required to purchase a fishing license. Forms shall be supplied to such persons when they apply for their licenses to be used for the identification purposes.

Residents living in this State for at least 1 year immediately prior to the date of application for a license who have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States and certified by the Veterans Administration as having at least a 60% service-connected disability.

Any patient in a rehabilitation hospital under the Department of Health and Social Services.

Any person who is legally blind.

Any person who fishes in a fee-fishing facility, registered as such with the Department of Agriculture.

Any resident who has served honorably for 90 or more consecutive days on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, including service as member of the Delaware National Guard, in military actions in Southwest Asia associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom may, for the first 12 months following the date the resident was honorably discharged or removed from active status, be issued a license to fish in this State without charge.

100 Year Timeline Fish and Wildlife

1911 - Governor appointed the Fish and Game Commissioners and the first Game warden (Fred B. Murphy) was hired at \$60 per month.

1919 - After heavy floods destroyed a number of dams, especially in Kent & Sussex Counties, a rescue effort moved 17,658 large fish back into many ponds including: Lake Como, Moore's Pond, Courseys Pond, Concord Lake, Records Pond, and others.

1923 - A patrol boat was purchased for use in marine waters. Fishing License receipts total \$2,553 (cost of resident license was \$3).

1936 - The Commission purchased a fish hatchery across from Moores Pond.

1937 - To further the interest of the conservation of our natural resources, exhibits of mounted specimens of native birds, animals and fish were displayed at the Harrington Fair. A group of 175 brown and rainbow trout were received from the Board of Game and Fish of New Jersey and released into several northern Delaware streams.



In 1938, William Pfizenmayer landed a 70-pound black drum in Roosevelt Inlet near Lewes, Delaware.

1938 - The Board of Commissioners arranged a fishing contest of fish taken in Delaware waters with prizes ranging from \$10 to \$25.

1941 - The Petersburg Game Management Refuge (now Norman G. Wilder) was established as an experimental area for upland game and food strips.

1943 - A separate Shell Fisheries Commission was created.

1945 - The lands of Assawoman Bay were obtained from the Federal Government.

1947 - The wardens caught 18,000 fish, consisting of bass, pike, crappies, and perch from the gate holes (spillpools) of the ponds throughout the state and released them in ponds state-wide for the pleasure of the freshwater fisherman.

100 Year Timeline Fish and Wildlife

1950 - Four technicians were hired to work on the biological survey of freshwater ponds in Delaware - the first Federal Aid Fisheries Project in Delaware.

1952 - The Freshwater Fisheries Division was established and restoration of ponds began.

1953 - The first regulatory powers were granted to the Commission on resident game and freshwater fish. Annual public hearings began on the regulations.

1954 - The survey of freshwater ponds was completed and publications made available. Mention was made of a marine fishing license in the near future.

1955 - The Delaware Trout Stamp was introduced. The first new pond, Griffith Lake was constructed.

1957 - Position of Director was created and Norman G. Wilder was hired to fill the position. The Divisions of Enforcement, Management and Research, and Information and Education were announced.

1969/1970 - Governor Russell W. Peterson created the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control which combined several agencies including the former Game and Fish Commission. The Commission was renamed the Division of Fish and Wildlife.



The weakfish catch in 1977 at Cedar Creek, during the great weakfish boom, which spanned two decades.

1971 - A three-year project to survey the fishes of Delaware's tidal streams was initiated.

1974 - Biological surveys of public ponds were repeated for comparison with 1953-54 results.

1979 - The Division assumed responsibility for the trawl survey of Delaware Estuary fishes, which later expanded to include horseshoe crab monitoring also.

1989 - Initiation of tidal largemouth bass project in the Nanticoke River.

1995 - First Artificial Reef in Delaware Bay.

Historical Photo Gallery



Proud fisherman J. Marlin Snyder, showing off his catch in 1938.



Two gentlemen enjoy fishing and good friends.



Fred Johnson and son Sam clean their flounder catch, 1957.



Women enjoying a day of fishing on White Clay Creek.



A big shark, date unknown.



Archival Photo of men holding trout at Bowers.

Freshwater Trout Fishing

Delaware's freshwater trout program is a self-supporting put-and-take fishery in selected New Castle County streams and Kent and Sussex County ponds. Revenue generated from the sales of trout stamps is used to purchase rainbow, brook and brown trout for stocking (see page 16). Summer water temperatures limit trout survival and reproduction in Delaware waters, so stocked fish are meant to be taken, but may be released at the angler's discretion.

Season / Hours - The 2011 freshwater trout season in New Castle County opens at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday April 2, 2011. No fishing is allowed in designated trout streams two weeks (14 days) prior to the scheduled opening of the trout season. It is unlawful to fish for trout in designated trout streams between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

Trout season in Tidbury (Kent County) and Newton (Sussex County) Ponds opens at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday March 5, 2011.

Trout Stamps - A trout stamp is required to fish in a designated **trout stream** from the first Saturday in April through June 30 and from the first Saturday in October through November 30 unless exempted by law. A trout stamp is also required to fish **Tidbury Pond** in Kent County and **Newton Pond** in Sussex County from the first Saturday in March through March 31. This year all licenses and stamps will be issued in an electronic form, and these trout stamps must be signed across the face to be valid. To obtain an original printed stamp, anglers may call 302-739-9918, and the stamp will be mailed after December 31, 2011.

License and Stamp Requirements for Trout Fishing

Resident/ Age	Fishing license	Young Angler trout stamp	Trout Stamp
Under 12	No	No	No
12 thru 15	No	Yes	No
16 thru 64	Yes	No	Yes
65 and over	No	No	No
Fee	\$8.50	\$2.10	\$4.20
Non-resident/Age			
Under 12	No	No	No
12 thru 15	No	No	Yes
16 and over	Yes	No	Yes
Fee	\$20.00		\$6.20

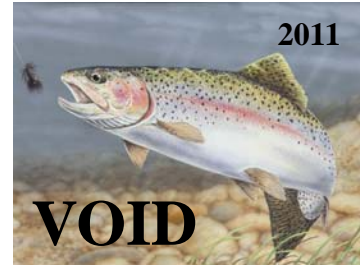
Possession Limits of Trout

It shall be unlawful for any person to catch and/or have in his possession more than six (6) trout in any one day; except, it shall be unlawful to possess more than four (4) trout in or within 50 feet of any fly-fishing only waters (restricted trout streams).

Special Fly Fishing Only Sections (Restricted Trout Streams)

White Clay Creek from a point 25 yards above Thompson Bridge at Chambers Rock Road to the Pennsylvania state line is designated as a fly-fishing only trout stream (Restricted Trout Waters). It is unlawful to use any metallic, plastic or rubber spinners, spoons, lures, plugs and/or natural bait or to use more than two (2) flies on a line at any one time.

It is unlawful to possess more than four (4) trout within 50 feet of a fly fishing only section (Restricted Trout Waters). Anglers may catch and release trout on these waters as long as the four (4) trout possession limit is not exceeded. All trout released must be returned to the water as quickly as possible with the least possible injury.



If you are interested in collecting Trout or Duck stamps, please contact the Division at 302-739-9911 or visit our website at www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/TroutStamp.aspx

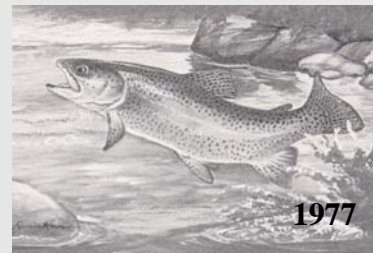
Designated Trout Streams

Designated Trout Stream	Description
Beaver Run	Pennsylvania line to Brandywine River
Christina Creek	Entire stream
Pike Creek	Route 72 to Henderson Road
Mill Creek	Brackenville Road to Route 7
White Clay Creek	Pennsylvania line to the downstream side of Paper Mill Road. Fly fishing only (restricted trout stream) section from a point 25 yards above Thompson Bridge at Chambers Rock Road to the Pennsylvania state line.
Wilson Run	Route 92 through Brandywine Creek State Park

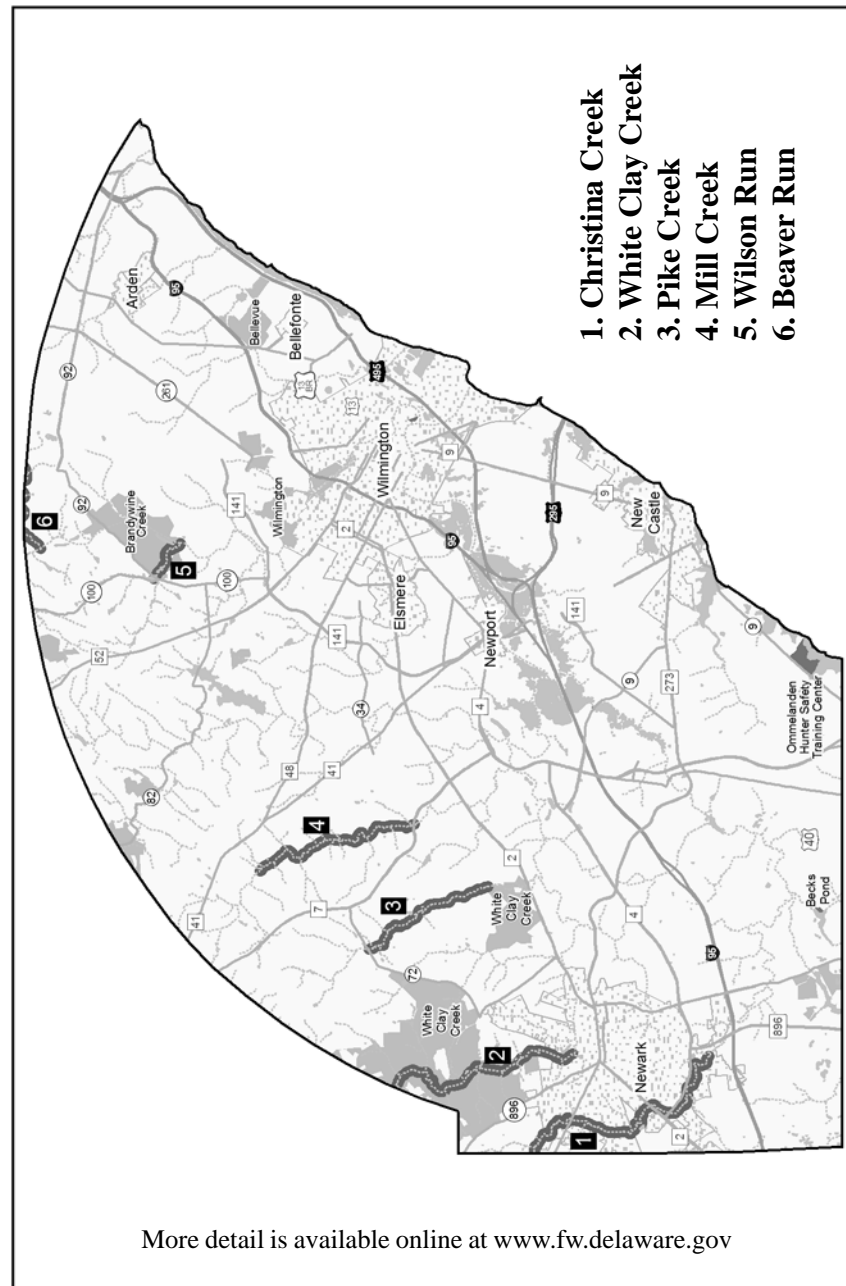
Most access to these streams is through and on private property or state park land. Each fisherman should respect the privilege of using private property.



Duane Raver, a renowned wildlife artist and North Carolina fishery biologist, was winner of the first Delaware trout stamp contest in 1977 with his rainbow trout watercolor.



Designated Trout Streams



2011 Tentative Trout Stocking Schedule

Water	◆ Prior to season	March 17	April 4	April 7	April 11	■ April 14	April 21	■ April 28
Streams								
<i>(Season opens 7:30 a.m. April 2)</i>								
Beaver Run								
Christina Creek								
Mill Creek								
Pike Creek								
White Clay Creek								
Wilson Run								
Ponds								
<i>(Season opens 7 a.m. March 5)</i>								
Newton Pond								
Tidbury Pond								

◆ Prior to season: stocking includes trophy-sized rainbow trout (14 inches or greater) at all locations.

● April 21: Stocking of 11 inch and trophy-sized rainbows to prepare for annual handicapped anglers fishing derby in Wilson Run
For details on the fishing derby, please call the park office at 302-577-3534.

■ April 14 and 28: Brown trout averaging 11 inches will be stocked at locations listed.

General Non-tidal Fishing Regulations

These are some of the regulations and state statutes that all anglers should be familiar with. Most have been edited to make them easier to read and understand. This is not a complete list and it is up to the angler to be familiar with all of the laws and regulations currently existing or newly adopted. For a complete listing, refer to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Fish and Wildlife website or request a copy from the Director's office.

Unless otherwise authorized, it shall be illegal for any person to fish for any freshwater fish in the non-tidal waters of this State with any fishing equipment or by any method, unless it is provided for in the following subdivisions:

A hook and line may be used, with each line to have no more than 3 hooks or 3 separate lures with hooks.

Unless a person is fishing through the ice, the number of hooks and lines that any one person is permitted to use to fish for any freshwater fish in the non-tidal waters of the State shall be no more than 2.

A person may use a dip net to aid in landing any freshwater finfish taken or caught by hook and line in the non-tidal or fresh waters of the State.

Carp may be taken and/or fished for by using a bow and arrow and/or spear, unless said equipment or method is otherwise restricted by any Department regulation. At this time, no carp may be taken from State Park ponds using bow and arrow.

It is illegal to sell, trade, or barter any finfish taken from the non-tidal waters of this State, unless authorized to do so in a permit issued by the Director.

It is illegal to take shad, except by hook and line, and no more than two (2) lures attached. Each lure may have no more than one (1) single pointed hook.

It is illegal to knowingly snag fish in non-tidal waters with any hook (single, double or treble) or otherwise catch or attempt to snag or catch any game fish by hooking the fish in any part of the body other than in the mouth.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish within ten (10) feet of an entrance or exit of a fish ladder or to remove fish from any fish ladder between March 15 and May 30.

Closure of Department Ponds during Draw-downs

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in any pond or lake administered by the Department when the water level is lowered for any purpose provided it is duly posted with signs by the Division that state it is closed to fishing.

Speed and Wake of Motorboats on Division Ponds

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized vessel, except at a **slow-no-wake speed**, on any pond or lake administered by the Division.

General Tidal Fishing Regulations

These are some of the regulations that all anglers should be familiar with. For a complete listing refer to the Division's website or request a copy from the Director's Office. See page 8 for license requirements.

Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*)

Spawning season

The spawning season for striped bass in Delaware is considered to begin at 12:01 AM on April 1 and continue through midnight on May 31 of each calendar year. It is unlawful for any person to take and retain any striped bass during the spawning season from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries, the Delaware River and its tributaries to the north of a line extending due east beginning at and including the south jetty at the mouth of the C & D Canal, or the C & D Canal or its tributaries (see map on page 28). Catch and release only during this season; no harvest is allowed.

Circle-hooks

It is unlawful for any person to fish during the striped bass spawning season on any striped bass spawning ground with natural bait using any hook other than a non-offset circle-hook when said hook measures greater than 3/8 inches as measured from the point of the hook to the shank of the hook.

The Division recommends that circle-hooks always be used when fishing natural baits because of their proven ability to reduce hook and release mortality for striped bass and other fish species. The circle-hook's design usually results in fish being hooked in the mouth, simplifying hook removal and reducing injury to the released fish.

Possession limit

A recreational angler may take no more than 2 striped bass per day (a period of 24 hours) from the tidal waters of this State at a minimum 28 inches unless otherwise authorized (e.g. spawning season or slot limit).

Slot limit season

In 2009, the Division adopted a new slot-limit during July and August for striped bass anglers in Delaware waters of the Delaware River, Delaware Bay, and their tributaries. The existing 28-inch minimum size remains in effect in coastal areas.

Area – Delaware waters only of the Delaware River and Bay and their tributaries. It does not apply to adjacent waters of Pennsylvania or New Jersey, nor does it apply to coastal waters, Indian River Inlet or the Inland Bays.

Season – July 1 – August 31

Size Limit – 20 inches to 26 inches (total length)

Limit – two (2) per angler

Special Conditions –

- ◆ Recreational hook-and-line fishermen only;

- ◆ Slot limit applies only to the area specified on page 18;
- ◆ Any striped bass less than or greater than the slot size must be released during this special season within the specified area. The 28-inch minimum size is in effect during all other months.

American shad and hickory shad

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession more than an aggregate of ten (10) American shad and hickory shad. Additionally it shall be unlawful for any person to take and reduce to possession any American shad or hickory shad from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries.

River herring

Unless otherwise authorized, it shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession, except a person with a valid Delaware commercial food fishing license, more than ten (10) blueback herring and/or alewife (*Alosa aestivalis* and/or *Alosa pseudoharengus*), collectively known as river herring, unless the person has a valid bill-of-sale or receipt for said river herring that indicates the date said river herring were received, the number of said river herring received, and the name, address and signature of the commercial food fisherman who legally caught said river herring; or a bill-of-sale or receipt from a person who is a licensed retailer and who legally obtained said river herring for resale.

No person shall fish with any type of a net, within 300 feet of any constructed dam or spillway on a tidal water river, stream, canal, ditch, or tributary located in this State.

Summer flounder

It shall be unlawful for any person while on board a vessel, to have in possession any part of a summer flounder that measures less than the current minimum size limit between said part's two most distant points unless said person also has in possession the head, backbone, and tail intact from which said part was removed.

The 2011 size limit and season will be announced; check the Division's website www.fw.delaware.us.

Electric lights

It is legal for any person to fish in the tidal waters of this State with the aid of "lights used for illumination for visual purposes".

"Lights used for illumination for visual purposes" shall mean any light that is fixed in position anywhere directly above the hull or deck of a vessel, dock or shore area, or any electric flood light less than 500 watts and fixed in position no less than ten (10) feet directly above the surface of the water. An electric flood light is any electric light that does not have a focused beam.

25th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament

As part of its activities for National Fishing Week, June 4-12, the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold its 25th annual Youth Fishing Tournament from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday June 11. The event will take place at Ingrams Pond

in Millsboro, Wyoming Pond in Town Park, Wyoming, and at the Lums Pond State Park dog training area.

This fishing event is for youths ages 4 to 15. An adult must accompany youths under age 12 and contestants should bring their own fishing equipment. The tournament is **free** to the public and prizes will be awarded in three age groups: 4-7; 8-11; and 12-15.

The tournament was established to introduce youth to the sport of fishing and to teach the catch and release approach to conservation. There is no pre-registration nor entrance fee required and the tournament is held rain or shine.

In addition to the youth fishing tournament celebrating National Fishing Week, the Division has designated June 11 and 12 as free fishing days when anyone may fish in Delaware's waters without a fishing license.



Kids fishing along the shore with their Dad in 1969.

Delaware's Small Pond Program

The Division has nine small ponds scattered throughout the State which offer shore angling targeted at youth. The ponds range from ½ to 8 acres and contain good populations of largemouth bass and bluegill. Catch and release is the order of the day so barbless hooks are required at most. A brochure listing the pond locations and available facilities is available online (www.fw.delaware.gov), click on 'Small Pond Brochure' under *Info for Anglers* or by calling 302-735-8650.



Shore angling in June of 1969.

Guide to Public Ponds



A guide to public ponds, available online, is updated annually with the latest fisheries data. Each pond's information includes: fish populations, vegetation conditions, special regulations and facilities, and a contour map of the pond.

This information is available at: www.fw.delaware.gov/fisheries/pages/DelawarePondBooklet.aspx.

Catch and Release

Many freshwater anglers practice catch and release fishing. This behavior, popularized by bass anglers, promotes the release of fish by anglers so the fish can be caught again. A long-term bass tagging study in Delaware has demonstrated many tagged fish are caught, released, and caught again – a few as many as four times. The Division strongly encourages catch and release fishing to maximize angling success - unless a fish population is known to be over crowded.

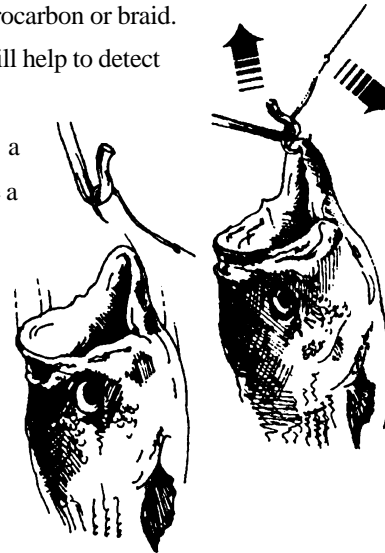


Man holds a largemouth bass on Garrison Lake date unknown.

Handling and Releasing Fish

Catch-and-release can be an effective way to conserve fish if certain precautions are observed. Whether fishermen choose to release fish or are required to do so by law, care should be taken to maximize the fish's chance of survival.

- ◆ **Exhaustion** – Long fights can decrease survival due to the build-up of lactic acid in muscular tissues. When practicing catch-and-release fishing, it is prudent to use equipment matched for the size of the fish targeted to minimize these effects. Once landed, the time the fish spends out of water should be minimized and anglers should avoid touching the fish's gills. Unresponsive fish can often be “revived” by forcing water across the gills. This can be accomplished by moving the fish gently back and forth in the water.
- ◆ **Slime Loss** – Fish have a slime coating, which seals out infection. Rough handling can damage this protective coating. Shallow landing nets, preferably rubber or knotless nylon, can greatly reduce excessive slime loss. Anglers should always handle fish with a wet towel, hand, or rubber gloves. Care should be taken to prevent the fish from flopping around and causing further wounds or loss of slime.
- ◆ **Wounds** – Anglers can do a lot to minimize the damage of hook wounds both before and after the fish is hooked. Tools such as de-hookers and needle-nose pliers can help to ensure a quick release. Treble hooks should be avoided when practical. Use fishing lines made of fluorocarbon or braid. The increased sensitivity of these lines will help to detect bites sooner and minimize the chances of hooking fish deep (stomach or gullet). If a fish should swallow the hook, cut the line a short distance above the hook eye. Studies have shown that some fish are able to pass hooks when a short piece of leader is attached. Barbless and circle hooks have both been proven to minimize wounds and time out of water.



Non-tidal Fishing Access Areas

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Area Location	Acres	Boat Ramp	Shore Fishing
1 Becks Pond (No gas motors)	25	Yes	Yes
2 Garrisons Lake	86	Yes	Yes
3 Masseys Mill Pond	30	Unimproved	Limited
4 Moores Lake	27	Yes	Yes
5 Derby Pond	23	Yes	Yes
6 Logan Lane Pond	2	No	& Only
7 Mud Mill Pond	60	Yes	Yes
8 McGinnis Pond	31	Yes	Yes
9 Andrews Lake	18	Yes	Yes
10 Coursey Pond	58	Yes	Yes
11 McColley Pond	49	No	Limited
12 Tubmill Pond	5	Yes	Limited
13 Silver Lake (Milford)	29	No	Limited
14 Haven Lake	82	Yes	Limited
15 Griffith Lake	32	Yes	Yes
16 Blairs Pond	29	Yes	Yes
17 Abbotts Pond	17	Yes	Yes
18 Newton Pond (No gas motors)	10	Car top only	Yes
19 Waples Pond	51	Unimproved	Limited
20 Wagamons Pond	41	Yes	Yes
21 Hearn's Pond	53	Yes	Yes
22 Concord Pond	77	Yes	Limited
23 Craigs Pond	12	Yes	Yes
24 Millsboro Pond	101	Yes	Limited
25 Ingrams Pond	24	Yes	Yes
26 Portsville Pond	15	Yes	Limited
27 Records Pond	92	Yes	& Pier
28 Chipman Pond	52	Yes	Yes
29 Horsey Pond	46	Yes	Yes
30 Tussock Pond	9	Yes	Limited
39 Fleetwood Pond	43	No	Limited

Parks and Recreation Access Areas

31 Lums Pond	189	Yes	Yes
32 Killens Pond	75	Unimproved	Yes
36 Trap Pond	107	Yes	Yes
37 Trussum Pond	73	Car top only	No
38 Raccoon Pond	14	Car top only	Limited

“Area” number refers to the numbered red or brown boxes on the Fishing Areas map (see fold-out).

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Tidal Fishing Access Areas

Area Location / Water Body	Boat Ramps	Fishing Piers	Parking
1 7th Street Park / Christina, Brandywine and DE Rivers	Closed	1	20
2 Newport Boat Ramp / Christina River	♿ 2	1	51
3 Churchmans Road / Christina River	♿ 1	none	20
4 Fort DuPont State Park / DE River	♿ 3	none	100
5 Canal Wildlife Area / C&D Canal	none	♿ 8 ... along road	
6 Augustine Beach / DE River	♿ 2	1	100
7 Odessa / Appoquinimink River	1	none	2
8 Collins Beach / DE Bay	♿ 3	1	120
9 Woodland Beach / DE Bay	1	♿ 1	50
10 Woodland Bch. / Duck Creek / DE Bay	2	none	30
11 Port Mahon / DE Bay	3	1	75
12 Water Street (Dover) / St. Jones River	car top	none	as available
13 Lebanon Landing / St. Jones River	1	♿ 1	7
14 Scotton Landing / St. Jones River	1	♿ 1	10
15 Bowers Beach / DE Bay	♿ 5	none	200
16 Cedar Creek / DE Bay	♿ 8	none	150
17 Front St., Milford / Mispillion River	♿ 1	1	10
18 Milton / Broadkill River	♿ 1	♿ 2	20
19 Lewes / DE Bay	♿ 6	none	128
20 Masseys Landing / Indian River	♿ 4	♿ 1	100
& Rehoboth Bay			
21 Rosedale Bch. / Indian River	♿ 2	♿ 1	30
22 Seaford / Nanticoke River	♿ 4	♿ 1	93
23 Phillips Landing/Broad Creek/Nanticoke River ..	♿ 3	none	50
24 Edward R. Koch / Broad Creek	none	none	10
<i>(shoreline fishing only)</i>			
25 Laurel below Records Pond / Broad Creek	♿ 1	♿ 2	17
26 Assawoman Wildlife Area /	♿ 2	2	20
Little Assawoman Bay			
Parks & Recreation Areas			
33 Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier	none	♿ 1	75
34 Indian River Marina	♿ 2	No	40
Indian River Inlet	none	along inlet	200
35 Holts Landing/ Indian River Bay	1	Yes	25

“Area” number refers to the numbered yellow or brown boxes on the Fishing Area map.

Note – All motor boats launched from tidal access areas administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife must be registered in Delaware or have a valid ramp certificate. Ramp certificates cost \$35 and are available from the Division of Fish and Wildlife or authorized agents (see page 40). **A daily or seasonal fee may be required at areas administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation.**

Shark Regulations for Delaware

Sharks are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the regulations are complex. For more detailed information contact the NMFS or visit www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/. State regulations are subject to any changes in federal regulations. Please consult www.fw.delaware.gov for the latest changes in state regulations. See center pull-out section (page 29) for more information on shark seasons, sizes, and daily limits.

Most Common Delaware Sharks

The sand tiger, sandbar, smooth dogfish and spiny dogfish are the most commonly caught shark species in Delaware. Sandbar and sand tiger sharks are of special significance to the Delaware Estuary and its anglers. Delaware Bay is an important “pupping area” and nursery for sand tiger sharks, and they are commonly hooked. Due to their low reproductive rate and overfishing, both species are protected and **none may be retained**.

Sand Tiger Shark (prohibited species) - Sand tigers are gray-brown to tan with dark splotches and lengths to 10.5 ft. First and second dorsal fins are nearly equal in size. Teeth are long, curved and not serrated.

Sandbar Sharks (prohibited species) - Sandbar sharks are dark gray to brown on back, fading almost to white on the belly. This heavy-bodied shark has broad and triangular teeth with a large first dorsal fin that begins at a point located at the middle of the pectoral fin. Upper teeth are broad and triangular. Recent research has shown that large sandbar sharks are susceptible to internal injuries from deep hooking. When releasing sandbar sharks, avoid removing these sharks from the water to prevent internal injuries.

Spiny Dogfish (no recreational limit) - The spiny dogfish is easily identified by a thorny spine located at the leading edge of both the first and second dorsal fins. Teeth are small and bent toward corners of mouth. It is commonly caught in cold water by anglers targeting mackerel or striped bass.

Smooth dogfish (no recreational limit) - This is the most common shark found in Delaware. Smooth dogfish are typically caught during the warmer seasons. The smooth dogfish, known locally as the sand shark, is a harmless species. Teeth are low and flat with plate-like arrangement. Gray to gray-brown and ranging up to 5 feet in length, this shark has large first and second dorsal fins, with “sandpaper-like” teeth.

Clamming

Methods of Take and Limits

A fishing license is required to harvest clams in waters of the State of Delaware. See Page 6 for details.

It shall be unlawful for any person to attempt to take, catch, kill or reduce to possession any hard clams with a device other than a hand-held rake with a head no wider than fourteen (14) inches measured perpendicular to the tines and a straight handle not in excess of seven (7) feet in length.

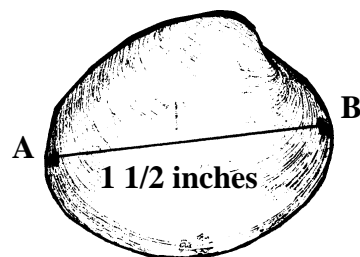
It is unlawful to harvest hard clams from one-half hour after sunset through one-half hour before sunrise.

It is unlawful for any resident to harvest more than one hundred (100) clams per day unless otherwise permitted to do so by license or permit.

It is unlawful for any non-resident to harvest more than fifty (50) hard clams per day unless otherwise permitted to do so by license or permit.

No shellfish harvesting (excluding crabs) is allowed in the **Prohibited Areas** marked on the map on page 27 or any tidal river, stream, or impoundment of the state. This includes all non-tidal and impounded water as well. Shellfish harvesting is allowed from December 1 through April 15 in the **Seasonally Approved Areas**. This is your protection against contracting shellfish-borne diseases. This is also the law. All boundaries may be marked with signs and or buoys saying “No Shellfish Harvesting” or “Prohibited Shellfish Area”. Questions regarding these closures should be directed to the Watershed Assessment Section Shellfish and Recreational Waters Programs 302-739-9939. Clamming is prohibited in eel grass beds marked with white PVC pipes and signs.

Minimum Hard Clam Size



The minimum size for a hard clam is 1 1/2 inches from point A to point B.

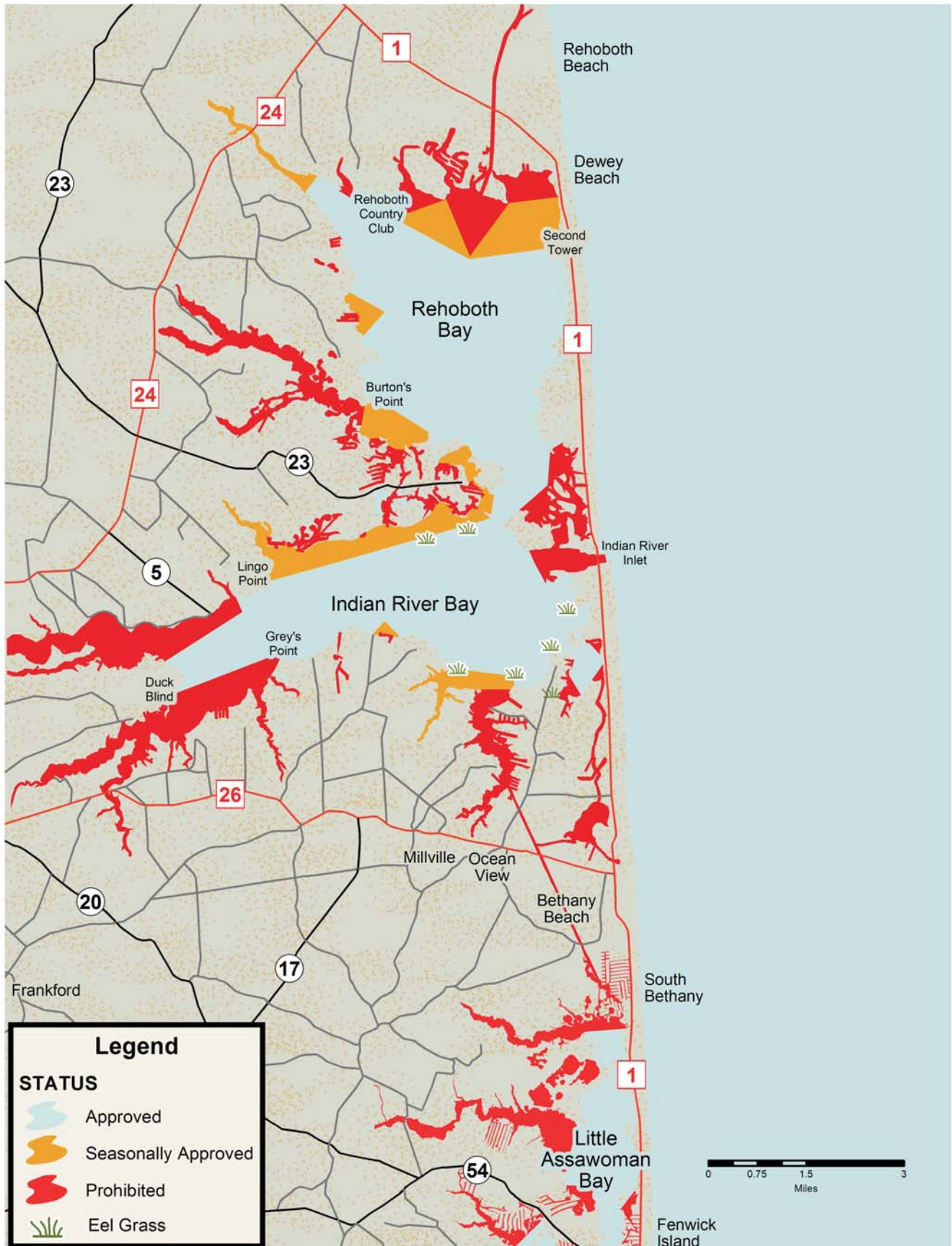
Oyster Historical Photo



Commerical oystering has a long Delaware history as shown by this 1924 photo.

Clamming, however, supports both commerical and recreational.

Clamming Map



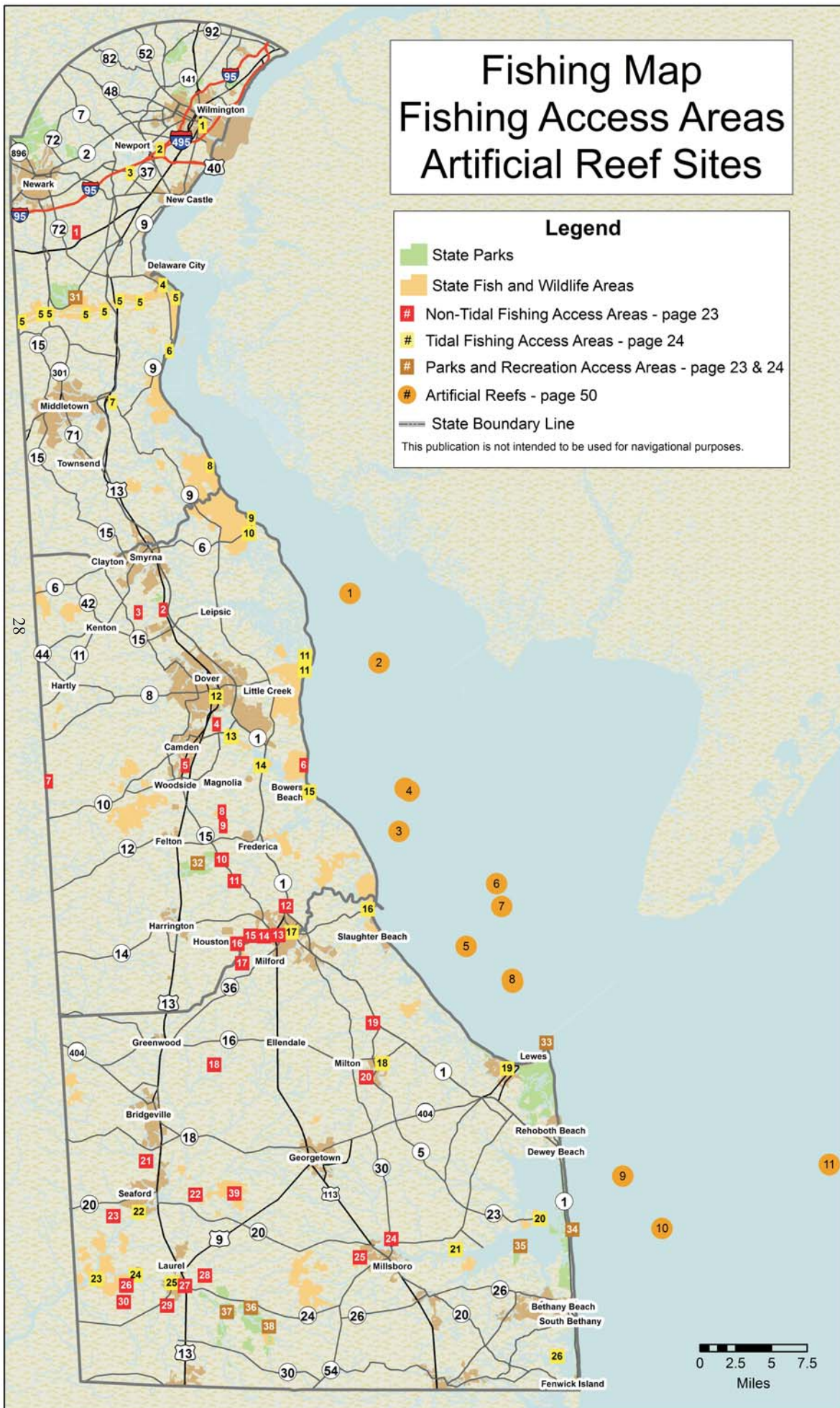
Fishing Map

Fishing Access Areas

Artificial Reef Sites

Legend

- State Parks
 - State Fish and Wildlife Areas
 - # Non-Tidal Fishing Access Areas - page 23
 - # Tidal Fishing Access Areas - page 24
 - # Parks and Recreation Access Areas - page 23 & 24
 - Artificial Reefs - page 50
 - State Boundary Line
- This publication is not intended to be used for navigational purposes.



2011 Quick Reference Pull Out Sheet Sharks

Special Restrictions for Shark

All anglers are advised that the following actions are unlawful:

- ◆ To fillet a shark prior to landing. (A shark may be eviscerated prior to landing, but head, tail and fins must remain attached to the body.)
- ◆ To possess the fins from any shark prior to landing unless they are naturally attached to the body of the shark.
- ◆ To release a shark in a manner that will not ensure the sharks maximum probability of survival (i.e. careful hook removal, no gaffs, no clubbing, etc).

Prohibited Species:

Sandbar shark, sand tiger, Atlantic angel shark, basking shark, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, longfin mako, narrowtooth shark, night shark, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltail shark, whale shark, white shark

Sharks must be immediately released to ensure the maximum probability of survival.

Sharks * - special permit may be required for federal waters



Species

Spiny & smooth dogfish

Open Season

All year

Minimum Size

None

Daily Limit

None



Blacktip shark, bull shark, great hammerhead, lemon shark, nurse shark, scalloped hammerhead, silky shark, smooth hammerhead, spinner shark, tiger shark

Jan. 1 - May 14;
July 16 - Dec. 31

54 - inches
fork length

See shark
limits below



Mako shark

Blue shark, porbeagle, oceanic white-tip shark, shortfin mako, thresher shark

All year

54 - inches
fork length

See shark
limits below

Atlantic sharpnose shark, blacknose shark, bonnethead, finetooth shark

All year

None

See shark
limits below

Shark Limits

Boat anglers - one per vessel for sharks listed that can be harvested plus one additional bonnethead and one additional Atlantic sharpnose per angler on board the vessel.

Shore Anglers - one per angler for the sharks listed that can be harvested plus one additional bonnethead and one additional Atlantic sharpnose per angler.

Tuna, Swordfish and Billfish

HMS * - special permit



Tuna



Blue marlin



White marlin



True albacore



Swordfish

***Special permit required** - all private vessel owners/operators recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tuna, sharks, swordfish and billfish) for personal use in the Atlantic Ocean must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling Permit. Further limits and restrictions apply. Consult www.hmspermits.gov or call toll free (888) 872-8862 for specific information and permits.















Shellfish Minimum Size, Creel Limits & Seasons

Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Blue crab	Pots: Mar. 1 - Nov. 30; other gears year around	Peeler - 3 inches Soft-shell - 3.5 Hard-shell 5 inches	1 bushel
(fishing license required)			
Hard clams	All year	1.5 inches	100/resident;
(fishing license required)	All year	1.5 inches	50/non-resident
Lobster	All year	3 3/8 - 5 1/4 inches	2; V-notched prohibited

2011 Quick Reference Pull Out Sheet











Tidal Waters

Delaware's Recreational Season, Size and Creel Limits

	Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
	American eel	All year	6 inches	50
	American & hickory shad	Closed Nanticoke River & its tribs.; open all year elsewhere	None	10 in any combination
	Atlantic croaker	All year	8 inches	None
	Atlantic sturgeon	closed - no harvest		
	Black drum	All year	16 inches	3
	Black sea bass	May 22 - Oct. 11 Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	12.5 inches	25
	Bluefish	All year	None	10
	Catfish (any species)	All year	None	None
	Red drum	All year	20 -27 inches may be retained	5
	River herring (alewife & blueback)	All year	None	10
	Scup	All year	8 inches	50
	Spanish mackerel	All year	14 inches	10
	Spotted seatrout	All year	12 inches	None
	Striped bass "Catch & Release" only on the spawning grounds April 1 - May 31	All year	28 inches except only 20 - 26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in the DE River, DE Bay and their tribs.	2
	Summer flounder	Season and size limits still have to be determined		4
	Tautog	April 1 - May 11 July 1 - Aug. 31 Sept. 29 - Mar 31	15 inches 14 inches 14 inches	3 10 10
	Weakfish	All year	13 inches	1
	White perch	All year	8 inches	None
	Winter flounder	Feb. 11 - Apr. 11	12 inches	2

Non-Tidal Waters

Delaware's Recreational Season, Size and Creel Limits

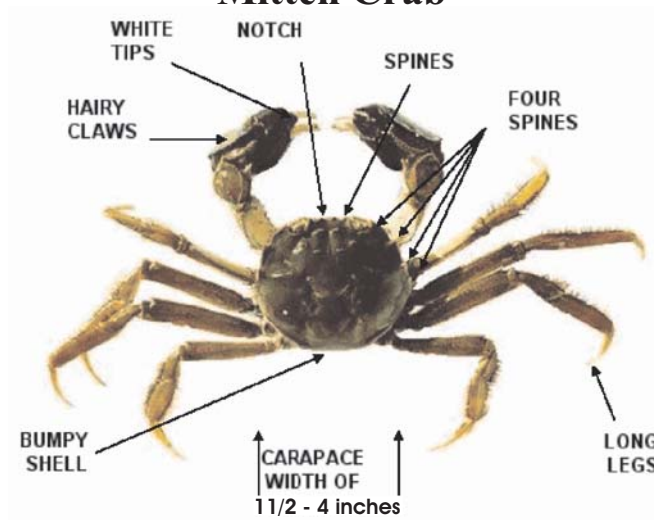
	Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
	Largemouth bass Exception: Becks Pond	All year	12 inches 15 inches	6 2
	Smallmouth bass	All year	None between 12-17 inches	6, no more than 1 over 17 inches
	Striped bass hybrid Only in Lums Pond	All year	15 inches	None
	Pumpkinseed	All year	None	50 no more than 25 of one species
	Black crappie			
	Yellow perch			
	Bluegill			
	White perch			
	Redear sunfish			
	Trout Special rules apply See pgs 13-14	Open first Saturday in April	None	6 4, fly-fishing Waters only

Invasive Species

Northern Snakehead Fish



Mitten Crab



Flathead Catfish



Red Swamp Crayfish



Invasive Species - 2011

Every week it seems that a new alien species has invaded our waters, often with detrimental effects on our native species. Anglers can help by serving as extra eyes on the water. Always be aware of unusual fish, plants or even shellfish in our waters. If you see something that you feel is very unusual, please contact us at 302-739-9914. If you catch any of the species described, **do not return it to the water, kill it** and contact us. Document the catch by either freezing it or taking a good photo.

Northern Snakehead Fish - This fish was first collected from the Potomac in 2004 and has increased in abundance since then. Recent work by MD DNR indicates some competition between largemouth bass and snakehead diets. Increases in bass numbers were observed when snakeheads were removed. This is a long, cylindrical fish, with long dorsal and ventral fins, and a large mouth with many sharp teeth. The long anal fin separates them from the similar bowfin. They prefer weedy ponds and streams. One adult snakehead was collected in October 2010 from Broad Creek near the Laurel boat access site in the Nanticoke River drainage.

Mitten Crab - First found in the Chesapeake Bay in 2006, this invasive crab species now appears to be establishing a resident population in Delaware Bay. After several documented specimens in Delaware Bay from 2007 to 2009, 12 adult Chinese mitten crabs were reported in 2010, all captured in the middle part of Delaware Bay in commercial crab pots. They are most easily identified by their fuzzy, hairy claws and notch between the eyes. The body of the crab grows up to 4 inches across. Most of their life cycle is spent in freshwater, but adults migrate into brackish waters to mate in the summer.

Flathead Catfish - The flathead catfish is a notorious invasive fish species originally hailing from Mississippi and Ohio River basins. Introduced flathead catfish severely reduce native fish populations, even leading to the complete removal of some native fish and crustacean prey species. The first report of this species in Delaware occurred in 2010 in the Brandywine River. They are most easily recognized by their broad, flat head, and lower jaw which sticks out further than the upper jaw. Flathead catfish are efficient predators and can reach 100+lb. Anglers should not release any flathead catfish in Delaware.

Red Swamp Crayfish - A large crayfish with distinctive red bumps on the claws. They often migrate over land during damp weather. They have been found north and west of Dover.

Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament Rules

1. The Sport Fishing Tournament is open to the public. There is no entry fee. Charter boat captains are eligible. Weighmasters are eligible to enter, provided their fish are weighed in at a weighing station other than their own.
2. All fish caught beyond the three-mile limit in the Atlantic Ocean entered in the Tournament must be caught within the boundaries of the State of Delaware. Any fish caught outside the three-mile territorial sea must be landed in a vessel leaving from a Delaware port and returning to a Delaware port.
3. All fish entered in the tournament must be weighed at an official Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament Weigh Station.
4. All fish entered in the tournament must be caught in a sporting manner with hook and line. No other person may touch the rod or line until the fish is brought within the grasp of the mate.
5. All scales used to weigh in fish must be certified yearly by the Delaware Division of Weights and Measures (Department of Agriculture 739-4811).
6. All fish entered in the tournament must meet the minimum weight requirement as set up for this year's tournament.
7. No smallmouth bass will be recognized from Kent or Sussex Counties unless Division of Fish and Wildlife qualified personnel examine and approve the catch.
8. **A fish will not be recognized as a state record unless qualified personnel from the Division of Fish and Wildlife approve the catch.** In case no Division personnel are available at the time of the weigh-in, the angler must save the entire fish for examination and approval at the earliest convenient time for the Division.
9. In the case of a tie for the largest fish of the year or a new state record, both fish will be recognized.
10. To replace a record for a fish weighing less than 25 pounds, the replacement must weigh at least 2 ounces more than the existing record. To replace a record for a fish weighing 25 pounds or more, the replacement must weigh at least one-half of 1 percent more than the existing record. Example: at 100 pounds the additional weight required would be 8 ounces. Any catch that exceeds the existing record by less than the amount required to defeat the record will be considered a tie.
11. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any entry.

12. All entry forms must be filled out completely and in a legible manner by the weighmaster. The signed forms should be mailed in **by the angler**.
13. The tournament runs from January 1 - December 31. No entry forms for the previous tournament year will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. January 31.
14. Only one citation per species of fish will be issued to any individual during the tournament year. In the event an individual catches a **larger** fish than the one for which he originally was issued a citation, a new citation will be issued for the larger fish if the individual returns the older citation.
15. Only one saltwater award and one freshwater award will be issued to any one individual during the tournament year.
16. Special citations will be issued upon approval of the Tournament Director in the case of unusual catches or extenuating circumstances. If the weigh station feels the catch is rare or unusual, an entry form should be submitted for approval. All decisions by the Director on unusual species will be final.
17. Citations will be awarded for released white or blue marlin. Fill out the standard entry form except for length, weight, and girth and include a signature and telephone number of a witness to the catch other than the angler and captain. Any marlin kept for taxidermy also will be eligible for Tournament entry provided a taxidermist receipt is enclosed with the entry form. Marlin retained for any purpose other than mounting will not be eligible for entry in the Tournament.
18. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any weigh station if the Tournament rules are not observed.
19. Hybrid striped bass will only be recognized for entry when caught in non-tidal water.
20. The State of Delaware assumes no responsibility in the certification of a catch for consideration by the International Game Fish Association or any record keeping body other than the Delaware Sportfishing Tournament. If the angler wishes to qualify his/her catch for consideration in some other tournament, it is the responsibility of the angler to insure that his catch and weigh-in meets the appropriate criteria. The Delaware Sportfishing Tournament makes no distinction based on line classes or sex of the angler or fly versus conventional fishing gear.

Call (302) 739-2960 for tournament information.

Live Release Awards

In order to promote conservation ethics among Delaware anglers, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is providing recognition patches to anglers who catch and release live eligible species that exceed the minimum lengths specified. To qualify, an angler must make the catch in Delaware waters or off Delaware's Atlantic coast line. The eligible species must be measured from the tip of the jaw to the tip of the tail (straight line measurement with mouth closed) and this measurement must be verified by a witness who signs the entry form. The fish so measured must be released immediately. Fish kept either alive or dead and brought to a weigh station will be weighed for entry in the Sport Fishing Tournament using certified scales and will not be eligible for a Live Release Award. Only those fish released alive immediately shall be eligible for a Live Release Award. Billfish released alive are eligible for either the Live Release Award or the Sport Fishing Tournament Award, whichever one the angler chooses.

No angler will be issued more than one live release freshwater award and one live release saltwater award per year, although he or she may apply for and receive one of the live release citations for each eligible species.

Applications for Live Release Awards are available on-line or may be picked up at any Sport Fishing Tournament Weigh Station and must be mailed to the Division of Fish and Wildlife within 30 days after the catch. The entry form for live releases must include both the angler's signature and the signature of a witness to the actual measurement and live release of the fish. No fish entered for a Live Release Award will be eligible for consideration as a State record fish. All potential State record fish must be weighed at a certified Weigh Station.



By keeping shorelines natural, you can help protect water quality and improve fish habitat. A shoreline without trees and shrubs can get washed away, making the water muddy and unsuitable for fish. If you live near a lake or a river, plant a buffer strip along the water's edge using trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other native plants. Trees and other vegetation filter pollution and provide shade, shelter, habitat, and food critical for bass, trout, and other fish to thrive and reproduce. Keep your favorite fishing spots well vegetated! For more tips and information, visit <http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/index.cfm>.



Fred Johnson shoreline fishing in 1955.

Sport Fishing Tournament Minimum Weights and Lengths (Live Release Only)

Freshwater Fishes

Species	Weight (lbs.)	Length* (inches)
Largemouth bass	5	20
Smallmouth bass	2 ¹	17
Striped bass	30	40
Striped bass hybrid ²	5	22
Bluegill	1	10
Carp	15	29
Catfish	6	25
Crappie	1	12
White perch	1	12
Yellow perch	1	12
Chain pickerel	4	24
American shad	5	23
Trout	2	16
Redear sunfish	1	10

Saltwater Fishes

False albacore	12	26
True albacore	30	32
Black sea bass	3	17
Striped bass	30	40
Bluefish	14	33
Atlantic croaker	3	19
Dolphinfish	15	41
Black drum	50	45
Red drum ³	do not qualify	45
Flounder	7	25
Kingfish	1	13
Atlantic mackerel	2	17
King mackerel	10	36
Spanish mackerel	5	22
Blue marlin	Any	Any
White marlin	Any	Any
Scup (porgy)	2	14
Shark (excl. Mako)	100	66
Mako shark	100	66
Sheepshead	8	22
Swordfish	Any	Any
Tautog	7	25
Blueline tilefish	10	28
Golden tilefish	35	40
Gray triggerfish	5	20
Tuna	75	52
Wahoo	20	50
Weakfish (Sea trout)	9	31

* For Live release award only; ¹Must be 17 inches or longer; ²Must be taken from non-tidal waters; ³Red drum do not qualify for weigh-in citations

Weigh Stations and/or Boat Ramp Certificate Sales

All motor boats launched from Division of Fish and Wildlife-administered tidal access areas must be registered in Delaware or have a valid ramp certificate from DNREC or its authorized agents for \$35.

Authorized Outlet/Weigh Station	City	Phone (302)	Weigh Station	Boat Ramp Certificate
New Castle County				
Joseph Janvier	Middletown	836-9545	yes	no
Shooters Supply	New Castle	328-6242	yes	no
Delaware Bass Stalkers	Newark	737-2691	yes	no
Eastern Marine	Newark	737-6603	yes	yes
Capt. Bones Bait, Tackle & Seafood	Odessa	378-4200	yes	no
Ocean Pro Shop	Smyrna	653-2577	yes	no
Carlisle's Marine	Smyrna	389-0100	no	yes
Rudy's Outboard Service	Wilmington	999-8735	no	yes
Kent County				
Pop's Bait & Tackle Shop	Bowers Beach	335-3500	yes	yes
Sonny's Bait & Tackle	Bowers Beach	335-2990	yes	yes
Smith's Bait Shop	Leipsic	744-9140	yes	yes
Division of Fish & Wildlife	Dover	739-9916	no	yes
Sussex County				
Hook'em & Cook'em	Bethany	539-6243	yes	no
Vines Creek Marina	Dagsboro	732-6043	yes	no
Indian River Outfitter	Dagsboro	732-3210	yes	no
Rehoboth Bay Marina	Dewey Beach	226-2012	yes	no
Fenwick Tackle	Fenwick	539-7766	yes	no
Sam's Fishing Tackle	Greenwood	424-0197	yes	no
Williamsville Country Store	Houston	422-4455	yes	no
Hook'em & Cook'em	Indian River	226-8220	yes	yes
A&R Bait & Tackle	Lewes	645-6111	yes	no
Fisherman's Wharf	Lewes	645-8862	yes	no
Henlopen Bait & Tackle	Lewes	645-8106	yes	yes
Lewes Harbour Marina	Lewes	645-6227	yes	yes
Steamboat Landing	Lewes	645-6500	yes	no
Bayroad Discount Bait & Tackle	Lewes	945-1995	yes	no
Bills Sport Shop	Lewes	645-7654	yes	yes
Cedar Creek General Store	Lincoln	424-4568	yes	no
Rick's Bait & Tackle	Longneck	945-9245	yes	no
Cedar Creek Marina	Milford	422-2040	yes	no
Cedar Creek Bait & Tackle	Milford	422-4227	yes	yes
Hi-Way Bait & Tackle	Milford	335-5087	yes	yes
Taylor Marine	Milford	422-9177	yes	no
Bayside Marina	Millsboro	945-3440	no	yes
PotNet Seaside Bait & Tackle	Millsboro	945-7798	yes	no
Massey's Landing	Millsboro	945-2544	yes	no
Short's Marine	Millsboro	945-1200	no	yes
Dan's Tackle Box	Milton	684-3093	yes	no
Bob's Marine Service	Ocean View	539-3711	no	yes
Indian River Marina	Rehoboth	227-3071	yes	yes
Old Inlet Bait & Tackle Inc.	Rehoboth	227-7974	yes	no
CH McKinney's	Rehoboth	227-8800	no	yes
Taylor Tackle Shop	Seaford	629-9017	yes	no
Walkers Marine	Seaford	629-8666	no	yes
Capt. Mac's Lighthouse Bait & Tackle	Selbyville	436-2445	yes	no
Route 113 Boat Sales	Selbyville	436-1737	no	yes
Adams Wharf	Slaughter Beach	422-8940	yes	no

State Record Holders

Freshwater			
Species	Weight	Angler	Year
Largemouth bass	10 lbs. 5 ozs.	Tony Kaczmarczyk	1980
Smallmouth bass	4 lbs. 15.5 ozs.	Jerry Proffitt	1989
Striped bass hyb.	13 lbs. 13 ozs.	Earl Blevins	1990
Bluegill	2 lbs. 10 ozs.	Arnold Harmon	1998
Carp	45 lbs.	Ronald Burnett	1976
Catfish	23 lbs. 6 ozs.	William Ridgley	1992
Crappie	4 lbs. 9 ozs.	Marvin Billips	1976
Tiger musky	15 lbs. 2 ozs.	Richard Harris	1991
White perch	2 lbs. 9 ozs.	Wayne Hastings	1997
Yellow perch	2 lbs. 11ozs.	Marvin Kessinger	1976
Chain pickerel	7 lbs. 3 ozs.	Earl Messick	1972
American shad	6 lbs. 12 ozs.	Bayard Conaway	1972
Trout	11 lbs. 10 ozs.	Edwin Wallace	1997
Walleye	6 lbs. 14 ozs.	Nesbit Copenhaver	1995
Redear sunfish	3 lbs. 1 ozs.	Marty Messick	1998
Saltwater			
False albacore	20 lbs.	Christian Anderson	2008
True albacore	80 lbs.	David Francella	1987
Black sea bass	7 lbs. 6 ozs.	Steve Samluk	1988
Striped bass	51 lbs. 8 ozs.	Betty Rosen	1978
Bluefish	21 lbs. 15 ozs.	Bill Thoroughgood	1980
Cod	44 lbs.	John Osborne	1975
Atlantic croaker	5 lbs. 3 ozs.	Catherine Simpson	1980
Dolphinfish	52 lbs. 15 ozs.	Charles Ciociola	2003
Black drum	115 lbs.	Kenneth Smith	1978
Red drum	75 lbs.	James Vandetti	1976
Flounder	17 lbs. 15 ozs.	William Kendall	1974
Kingfish	4 lbs.	Billy Hastings	1973
Atlantic mackerel	3 lbs. 5 ozs.	Ricky Yakimowicz	1985
King mackerel	48 lbs. 9 ozs.	Gordon Harris	1992
Spanish mackerel	6 lbs. 4 ozs.	Eric Ludwig	2000
Blue marlin	820 lbs.	Bruce King	1986
White marlin	120 lbs.	William Garner Jr.	1972
Scup	5 lbs. 5 ozs.	Herman Schmidt	1979
Shark	825 lbs.	Brent Thomas	1981
Mako shark	975 lbs.	Thomas Barnes	2000
Sheepshead	14 lbs. 4 ozs.	Fallyn Smith	2008
Swordfish	276 lbs. 12 ozs.	Albert Scott	1978
Tautog	21 lbs. 4 ozs.	Glenn Cave	2005
Gray triggerfish	5 lbs. 12 ozs.	Brent Stewart	2005
Tuna	873 lbs.	Dan Dillon	2005
Wahoo	98 lbs.	Jeff Murtoff	2003
Weakfish	19 lbs. 2 ozs.	William Thomas	1989

See Pages 36 and 37 for more information on the Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament

Fish Consumption Advisories

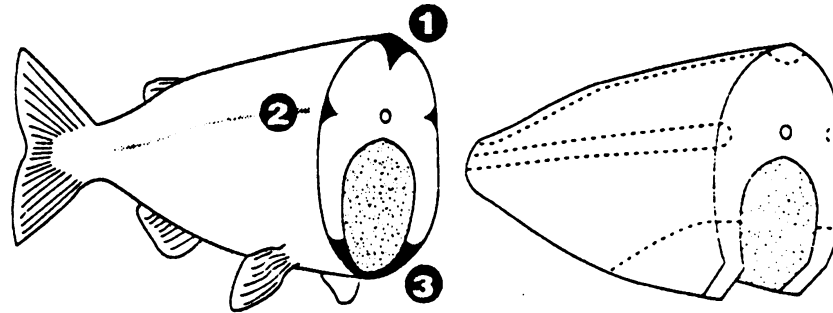
Fishing is an important activity in Delaware's inland and coastal waters. Among the benefits provided by fishing are quality recreational opportunities, direct and indirect input to the local economy, food for recreational anglers, and food for the commercial marketplace. Fish are a good source of readily digestible protein. They are low in fat and sodium, and the unique types of fats found in fish are believed to provide cardiovascular benefits.

Despite the general benefits of fishing and fish consumption, there has been a growing concern regarding the presence of chemical toxins in the flesh of finfish and shellfish taken from Delaware waters and the associated health risk to anglers and their families who consume their catch. The existence of chemicals in the edible portion of some fish has resulted in the public advisories. These advisories are as a result of joint action taken by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Department of Health and Social Service's Division of Public Health. The advisories were deemed necessary because of the nature of pollutants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Even when present in the water in extremely small amounts, some chemicals tend to build up over time in fish tissue because fish can absorb and concentrate contaminants from food they eat, or to a lesser extent, directly from the water. The amount of contaminants fish accumulate depends on the species, size, age, sex, and feeding area of the fish. Generally speaking, older, larger individual fish accumulate the most contaminants, although in some cases contaminants are shed each time the fish spawn. Since fish accumulate many contaminants in their fatty tissues, certain species with higher oil content can pose more risk than others when both inhabit polluted areas.

For more information concerning health advisories for Delaware waters, go on-line or contact the Division of Public Health at (302) 744-4546.

Cutting the Fat



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Toxic chemicals

tend to concentrate in the fatty tissue, shown in black above, found in the:

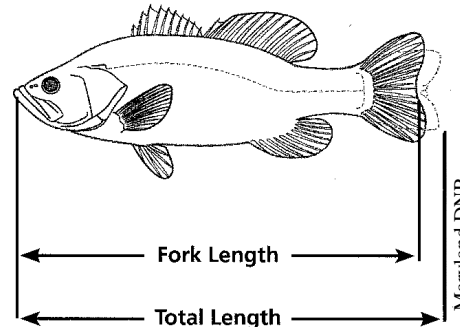
- 1) dorsal area.
- 2) lateral line.
- 3) belly flaps.

When cleaning fish, always skin it and trim away fatty areas, as shown above.

Measuring Your Catch

Place the fish on a measuring board or stick with the tip of the jaw or snout (the mouth closed) at the end of the instrument. Hold the head down with one hand to keep the fish in place, pinch the upper and lower lobes of the tail together while swiping the tail back and forth across the board. Note the measurement of the longest part of the tail*; that is the "total length". Keep in mind that fish which barely make the minimum length may shrink after being on ice for an hour or more. Sometimes it is possible to get an accurate measurement while the fish is still in the landing net.

*When measuring black sea bass do not include the long caudal fin filament in your measurement of total length.



Maryland DNR

Delaware Fish Consumption Advisories (www.fw.delaware.gov)

Waterbody	Species	Contaminant of concern	Geographical Extent	Meals/yr (8 -ounce serving)
All Waters not listed below	All Species not listed below	All	All Areas not listed	52
Delaware River	All Finfish	A, B, C, D	Delaware State Line to the C&D Canal	0
Lower Delaware River	Weakfish-all sizes;	A	Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to	12
and Delaware Bay	Bluefish-14 inches or less	A	the Mouth of the Delaware Bay	12
	Striped Bass, White Perch American Eel, White Catfish, Channel Catfish, Bluefish-greater than 14 inches	A, C	Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Mouth of the Delaware Bay	1 ♦
Delaware Atlantic Coastal Waters including Delaware Inland Bays	Bluefish-14 inches or less	A	Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to MD/DE Line	12
	Bluefish-greater than 14 inches	A, C	Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to MD/DE Line	1 ♦
Shellpot Creek	All Finfish	A	Governor Printz Blvd. to the Delaware River	0
Army Creek and Pond	All Finfish	A, B, G	Entire Creek and Pond	2
Red Lion Creek	All Finfish	A, B	Route 13 to the Delaware River	1
Chesapeake & Delaware Canal	All Finfish	A, F, E, H	Entire Canal in Delaware	0
Appoquinimink River	All Finfish	A, B	Tidal Portions	1
Drawyers Creek	All Finfish	A, F	Tidal Portions	1
Silver Lake Middletown	All Finfish	A, E, F, B	Entire Lake	1
Waples Pond	All Finfish	C	Entire Pond	12

Prime Hook Creek	All Finfish	C	Entire Creek	12
Slaughter Creek	All Finfish	A, G	Entire Creek	6
Saint Jones River	All Finfish	A, B, C	River Mouth to Silver Lake Dam	2
Moore's Lake	All Finfish	A, F	Entire Pond	2
Silver Lake Dover	All Finfish	A, B, C	Entire Pond	2
Wyoming Mill Pond	All Finfish	A, B, F	Entire Pond	2
Tidal Brandywine River	All Finfish	A	River Mouth to Baynard Blvd.	0
Non-tidal Brandywine River	All Finfish	A, B	Baynard Blvd. To Pennsylvania Line	6
Tidal Christina River	All Finfish	A, E	River Mouth to Smalley's Dam	0
Non-tidal Christina River	All Finfish	A, E, H	Smalley's Dam to DE/MD Line.	6
Tidal White Clay Creek	All Finfish	A	River Mouth to Route 4	0
Non-tidal White Clay Creek	All Finfish	A	Route 4 to DE/PA Line	12
Red Clay Creek	All Finfish	A, B, D	State Line to Stanton	6
Little Mill Creek	All Finfish	A	Creek Mouth to Kirkwood Highway	0
Christina Creek	Stocked Trout	A, E	Rittenhouse Park to DE/MD Line	6
Designated Trout Streams & Ponds other than Christina Creek	Stocked Trout	A	Designated Trout Streams are listed on pg. 14	12

Notes: ♦ Women of childbearing age and children should not consume any amount of these fish.

For more information on the specific contaminant(s) of concern for each waterbody listed, consult the Division's website (www.fw.delaware.gov) or contact DNREC at (302) 739-9902, or the Division of Public Health at (302) 744-4546.

Contaminants of concern: A) PCBs, B) Dioxin, C) Mercury, D) Chlorinated pesticides, E) Dieldrin, F) DDT, G) Furan, and H) Chlordane.

Blue Crabs

Effective January 1, 2008 a fishing license is required to crab in all waters of the State of Delaware. See page 6.



Girl crabbing in 1980

The blue crab is common in all the tidal waters of Delaware. It is a popular recreational resource and tops the list of the State's economically important marine fish and shellfish.

Blue crabs grow very quickly and reach maturity in 12 to 18 months. Most do not live beyond two years under current exploitation levels.

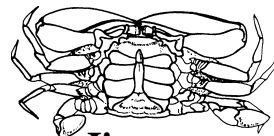
In order to grow, a blue crab must shed its shell and form a new shell. This process is repeated up to 18 times to attain maximum length. It is legal to take crabs at three stages, but to get the most yield in weight out of a crab, they should reach a minimum length before being harvested. This is measured from point to point of the top shell.

Mature females (sooks) are identified by the rounded apron on their under side.

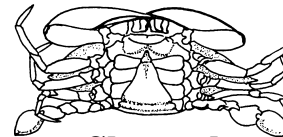
Once this stage of development is achieved, females stop growing. Because a portion of the female population does not reach five inches before achieving maturity, the minimum size requirement has been dropped. Females bearing eggs, commonly known as sponge crabs, may not be taken and should be returned to the water immediately.

Recreational crabbers may not use, place, set or tend more than two pots. The person claiming to own the pots must be the one to set and tend them. These pots must be marked with all white buoys with the owner's full name and permanent mailing address inscribed either on the buoy or on a waterproof tag attached to the buoy. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours. All crab pots must be removed from the water between December 1 and February 28. Recreational crabbers may use a trot line (no length limit) and any number of hand lines or traps. The recreational daily limit is one bushel per person.

A turtle by-catch reduction device is required to be attached in each funnel entrance of a recreational crab pot to reduce the possibility of diamondback terrapins entering and drowning. A by-catch reduction device is a rigid rectangular frame of plastic or metal that measures 1.75 inches x 4.75 inches and is available at local tackle shops, or can be hand-made from heavy wire or other suitable material.



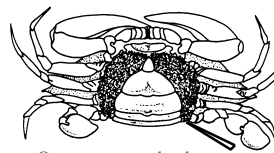
Jimmy
Mature Male



She-crab
Immature Female



Sook
Mature Female



Orange eggs under the apron
Sponge Crab
Female with eggs

Surf Fishing

The Division of Parks and Recreation surf fishing beaches are located in Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware Seashore and Fenwick Island State Park, and on Beach Plum Island. Special restrictions and regulations apply to these areas. For more information contact the Division of Parks and Recreation, (302) 739-9220.



The surf tag shows the year to be 1981

Please note: Permit holders must be actively engaged in surf fishing while on the beach.

In order to drive a vehicle on a designated State Park beach, a SURF FISHING VEHICLE PERMIT is required. Only four-wheel drive vehicles with a minimum ground clearance of seven inches that are licensed to operate on public roadways are eligible for Surf Fishing Vehicle Permits. Permit holders must be actively engaged in surf fishing while on the beach. Permits are available at State Park offices, various license agents, and at the DNREC main office in Dover. Purchasers of Surf Fishing Vehicle Permits will receive additional rules and safety requirements. The revenue collected from these permits supports the management of seashore State Parks and beaches. None of the proceeds from these permits go towards fisheries management programs or fishing access projects conducted by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Boating Safety

Education

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1978 must successfully complete an approved boating safety course before operating a motorboat and/or Personal Watercraft (PWC) in Delaware. Approved courses are a State of Delaware sponsored course, a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary course, a U.S. Power Squadron course, Delaware Safety Council or any other state course which is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and DNREC.

Four Leading Causes of Boating Fatalities in Delaware Waters are:

1. Not wearing a PFD or wearing it unzipped
2. Collision (including PWC accidents)
3. Capsizing
4. Alcohol

Alcohol

Just as drinking and driving don't mix, drinking and boating are a dangerous combination. Sun, glare from the water, constant boat motion and boat vibration all contribute to boater fatigue. Add alcohol consumption and those problems are compounded. Additionally, alcohol affects balance and muscle coordination, causes tunnel vision and slows reaction time. It also affects reasoning and increases the tendency to take risks.

Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is against the law and could result in fines up to \$1,000 for first offense and/or up to 60 days in jail. A blood alcohol content of 0.08 or greater constitutes being under the influence.

Registration, Numbering and Marking of Undocumented Vessels

Vessels equipped with any type of motor must be registered in Delaware if principally used (a period of more than 60 days) in this State. The registration card or valid temporary registration card must be on board when the boat is in use. For further information on boating registration call: (302) 739-9916.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

In addition to the carriage requirements listed, a PFD must be worn by a child 12 years old or under while aboard a boat which is underway and all PWC riders. Current regulations require all vessels to carry a wearable Type I, II, III, or V PFD for each person onboard and a throw cushion type IV for the boat, excluding boats less than 16'. The Boating Education Office suggests all vessels carry a type IV throwable with a line attached for casting, and that you wear your life jacket zipped.

Negligent Operation

Skippers on Delaware waters are legally responsible for damages to life, limb or property caused by his/her vessel. And, of course, negligent operation is illegal.



Enforcement vessel escorting CGC Eagle tall ship off Delaware City. The CGC Eagle was taken as a war prize in 1946.

Boating Safety

Safe Boating Speed

The speed of all vessels on Delaware waters must be slow enough to prevent any wake of appreciable height when the vessels are within 100 feet of: “Slow-No-Wake” speed areas, docks, launching ramps, marked swimming areas, swimmers, anchored, moored, or drifting vessels.

Every year people are killed or seriously injured in boating accidents in Delaware’s waters. All of these accidents were avoidable if the ‘rules of the road’ had been followed and safe boating practices had been adhered to. The Handbook of Delaware Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available at no cost by contacting the Enforcement Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife (1-302-739-9915) or through our website www.fw.delaware.gov.

The Enforcement Section of the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for enforcing all of the safe boating laws as well as making sure that fish and shellfish size and creel limits are being followed. Some of the waters of the State are also patrolled by other authorities such as police officers and the U.S. Coast Guard. Boaters approached by a patrol boat with its blue light flashing should reduce speed, yield the right of way to the patrol boat, or if necessary stop your vessel. The operator must stop when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer.

The safety equipment and requirements for Delaware boaters vary depending on the type and length of the vessel. Here is an example of what is required of a typical fishing boat from 16 to 26 feet in length. For a complete list of all requirements for all size vessels contact the Enforcement Section.

- ◆ Boater Safety Education Card (for all operators born after January 1, 1978). For information contact 739-9915 or go to our website.
- ◆ Valid Boat Registration Card
- ◆ Valid Boat Registration decal (displayed)
- ◆ Personal Floatation Device(s) –
one of the appropriate size for each person on-board
- ◆ Type IV throwable PFD
- ◆ Type B-I Fire Extinguisher
- ◆ Flame Arrestor
- ◆ Ventilation System for fuel vapors
- ◆ Horn, Whistle, or Bell
- ◆ Visual Distress System (day and night)
- ◆ Navigational Lights

It is the responsibility of each vessel operator to observe the rules of the road and the carriage requirements. The Division recommends boaters wear their life jacket at all times while on the boat. Six out of ten boating fatalities could be prevented by boaters wearing their life jackets. The consistent use of life jackets will save more lives.

Artificial Reef Program

Delaware has eleven permitted artificial reef sites in Delaware Bay and along the Atlantic Coast. Development of these sites began in 1995 and will continue. The Delaware Reef Program is one part of a comprehensive fisheries management effort and is designed to enhance fisheries habitat, benefit structure-oriented fish, and provide fishing opportunities for anglers.



In 2007, the 175-foot Gregory Poole became the first vessel to be sunk on the Del-Jersey-Land Reef Site. It was built by the U.S. Navy as the USS Cruise, a mine sweeper. After World War II it served for many years as a menhaden harvesting vessel, owned by Beaufort Industries of North Carolina. The vessel set the record for annual menhaden harvest by a single vessel, harvesting 93 million fish in one year.

The site charts in the free reef guide show where reef materials have been deployed since 1995. The reef program uses DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) to accurately place materials on site. Locations (latitude - longitude) noted for each site indicate the position of deployments of reef material from an anchored barge. In the case of large, concentrated reef deployments, a latitude or longitude range, may be given such as: N 39 15.377' - 402'. This indicates material occurs between 39 degrees, 15.377 to 15.402 minutes north latitude. Due to variability between DGPS receivers, slight variations in readings may occur. It is suggested you use your GPS and a good fathometer to locate reef structure, then note the coordinates on your own GPS. You can view the reef guide on-line or contact the Fisheries Little Creek field office for a copy (302) 735-2960.

Fishing Advisory Councils

By Delaware law there are four citizen advisory councils with members appointed by the Governor to provide guidance to the Division of Fish and Wildlife on issues associated with fishing and fishery resources. All members serve without compensation. The Council on Game and Fish consists of 9 members and they provide advice on wildlife and freshwater fisheries matters. The Council on Shell Fisheries consists of seven members, at least four of whom represent commercial shellfishing interests, one recreational shellfisherman, and one person knowledgeable in marine fisheries. These two advisory councils have been in existence since the early 1970s. The Advisory Council on Tidal Finfisheries consists of seven members, three of whom represent recreational fisheries interests and three represent commercial fisheries. This council was formed in 1984. Legislation that passed late in 2007 authorized the creation of the newest advisory council, the Council on Recreational Fishing Funding. This seven-member council of citizens with an interest in recreational fisheries also includes two ex-officio members of the General Assembly and a non-voting representative of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. This newest council is charged with advising the Division on construction related priorities for expenditure of funds generated from the sale of recreational fishing licenses.

The length of appointments to these councils varies, but in general is for three years at a time. The various councils meet monthly in the case of Game and Fish and Tidal Finfisheries (except that Tidal Finfisheries does not meet in July, August, and December), quarterly for Shell Fisheries, and once or twice per year for the new Council on Recreational Fishing Funding. The council meetings are held in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's auditorium on weekday evenings, and the public is encouraged to attend and participate. For more details on meeting schedules of the various advisory councils, check the Division's website (www.fw.Delaware.gov) and follow the links for advisory councils.

Recreational Gill Nets

Gear and seasonal restrictions apply to recreational gill nets and anyone obtaining a permit will be informed of these restrictions. During 2011, all gill nets must be removed from the Delaware Bay and Ocean on the following dates: May 1-8; May 13-15; May 20-22; May 27-30; June 3-5; June 10-12; June 17-19; and June 24-30 in order to reduce weakfish mortality rates as required by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Weakfish Management Plan. Each closure period begins at 12:01 AM on the first day and ends at midnight on the last day. No striped bass caught in recreational gill nets may be retained at any time.

Fish Stocking Practices

It shall be unlawful for any person to stock any species of fish into the non-tidal public waters of this State without the written permission of the Director. This regulation does not prohibit the stocking of private impoundments.

Possession, Transportation, and Sale of Illegal Species

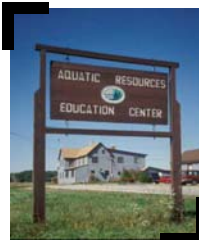
It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, purchase, possess, or sell walking catfish (*Clarius batrachus*) or the white amur or grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) or live northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*) or blotched snakehead fish (*Channa maculata*) without the written permission of the Director.

Have you seen a sturgeon recently?



If you find a dead sturgeon please report it immediately :
302-735-8650. Don't forget to include an exact location and contact information in your message.

Aquatic Resources Education



In 1938, a Board of Education within the Commission of Game and Fish was established with Mr. Edwin Barry hired as Director of Education. He gave programs and developed educational leaflets including publication of "Game and Fish News". A Natural Science Camp for teachers was held in 1942 at Camp Otonka on Indian River near Dagsboro.

However, due to World War II, the educational work of the Commission was eliminated in 1943. After that, education of school children about natural resources was primarily done by interested staff as time permitted. One of the Game Wardens, Dawson Sapp obtained a Native American costume complete with a floor length feather headdress which he wore when teaching about natural resources and native fish and wildlife.

It was not until 1989, that Aquatic Resources Education (ARE) became a formal program within the Division of Fish and Wildlife. A portion of the federal tax on fishing gear (known as Wallop-Breaux funds) was used to purchase the historical M&M hunting lodge near Woodland Beach, as a center for the new program. In 1992, Gary Kreamer, was hired to coordinate and develop ARE programs. In 1995, a grant from Delaware Greenways enabled construction of a 940-foot boardwalk interpretive trail over the tidal marshlands behind the center. A highlight of those early years was a program called *NatureLink*, featuring a partnership with the Delaware Nature Society and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware that brought numerous urban families down to the AREC for a weekend of fishing, marsh exploring and other outdoor experiences.

Other highly successful programs followed: *Wetland Activities for Delaware Educators* (WADE) hands-on learning kits for the classroom, *Eco-explorers* salt marsh ecology field trip programs, the *Wesley College-ARE partnership for elementary aquatic education outreach*, the *Green Eggs & Sand* (horseshoe crab/shorebird education) project, coordination of the statewide *Adopt-a-Wetland* program, and a Delaware version of the national *Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs* program. In the years since, these and other ARE programs have reached hundreds of thousands of Delaware youth with information, activities and direct experience in the aquatic resources of our state.



Lynda Richardson for National Wildlife Federation

DuPont Nature Center

The DuPont Nature Center at the Mispillion Harbor Reserve is located at the mouth of the Mispillion River on the Delaware Bay. This harbor represents one of the most important horseshoe crab spawning beaches and shorebird feeding areas in the world. Each year, thousands of horseshoe crabs mate and lay millions of eggs on beaches visible from the DuPont Nature Center's observation deck. The eggs are a critical food source for migratory shorebirds, including the remarkable Red Knot, which stops at the Delaware Bay each spring on its 9,000-mile flight from Tierra del Fuego (South America's southernmost tip) to its summer nesting grounds in the Arctic.



The center includes an observation deck with spotting scopes to view the harbor, bay and shoreline. More than 130 species of birds, fish, shellfish, and other animals populate the area. Inside the center visitors can view shorebirds and horseshoe crabs along the shoreline more than 100 yards away, courtesy of a remote camera and a 42-inch plasma viewing screen.



The center is filled with live animals and exhibits devoted to the Delaware Bay's natural history and ecology. To learn more about the DuPont Nature Center, call 302-422-1329 or visit www.dupontnaturecenter.org.

What the Fisheries Section's Biologists Do

Biologists from the Fisheries Section are constantly working on Delaware's rivers, ponds, estuaries, the Delaware Bay, and coastal waters, keeping track of the State's fish populations and how they are faring.

They use different types of sampling gear to check fish populations, depending on the habitat and the kind of fish involved. Some fish – like largemouth bass and striped bass – are most easily collected by electrofishing.

Fish in the deeper waters of the Delaware Bay – like weakfish and croaker – can be more easily collected by trawling. Once fish are collected, they are typically weighed and measured. Scale samples or other aging structures may be removed so age and growth of the fish can be determined. A variety of sizes and ages is an indication of a healthy fish population for larger, older individuals as well as young ones.

How is the Information Used?

In the case of our freshwater ponds, problems such as over-crowding of smaller fish or poor growth can be addressed on a pond specific level. Habitat issues – like destruction of shoreline structure or run-off from human activities affecting water quality- are the most common problems.

For species like striped bass, management must be done on a regional or coastal level. Striped bass move into the Delaware during the spring to spawn upstream of the Delaware Memorial Bridge well up into Pennsylvania waters. However, the adults move out into coastal waters and may migrate between New England and North Carolina during the rest of the year. All coastal states gather information which is then analyzed, while management of the species is governed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and other inter-state agencies.

Check out the informational flyers about a variety of fish management programs by Division biologists:

www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/FisheriesResearch.aspx

- Age and Growth of Fishes
- American eel Monitoring Project
- Atlantic Menhaden Monitoring Project
- Atlantic Sturgeon Research
- Becks Pond Improvements & Action Plan
- Electrofishing
- Horseshoe Crab Viewing
- Horseshoe Crab Monitoring
- Juvenile Atlantic Sturgeon Tracking
- Managing Delaware's Public Ponds
- Oyster Management Program
- Shad Restoration on the Nanticoke River
- Stocking fish
- Striped bass Food habits project
- Striped bass Survey
- Tidal Largemouth bass Survey
- Trawl Survey Program
- Weakfish Tagging Project



Biologist John Clark with striped bass collected from Delaware River spawning grounds.

Just Available - Angler Logbook Online

In 2011, the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) created an electronic logbook for use by all anglers who fish in Delaware waters. This logbook will keep tally of all your fishing trips for you. At any time, the logbook can give you reports about what species of fish you caught for the year, how many you kept and released, where you fished, what gears you used, etc. You can even record your shellfish catches if you happen to be a recreational crabber or clammer.

For many years we've relied on a federal survey to shed light on recreational catches and fish sizes in Delaware. That survey provides a great deal of information, but we lack information about many other aspects of our recreational fishery. Things like sizes of released fish, or basic information about less popular game fishes, or fishes caught at night. Use the electronic logbook and enjoy its features. At the same time, you will be helping us better understand what's 'really' going on out there with our recreational species.

Our aim for the electronic logbook is to provide a useful tool for our anglers while enabling us to improve fishing for all Delaware anglers.

Go to the site, create your own login name, then follow the instructions to record your trip.

http://warsaw-grouper.accsp.org:7777/pls/htmldb_safis/f?p=SAFIS:1::DELOGBOOK

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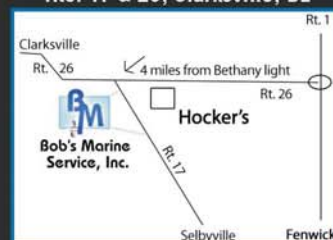
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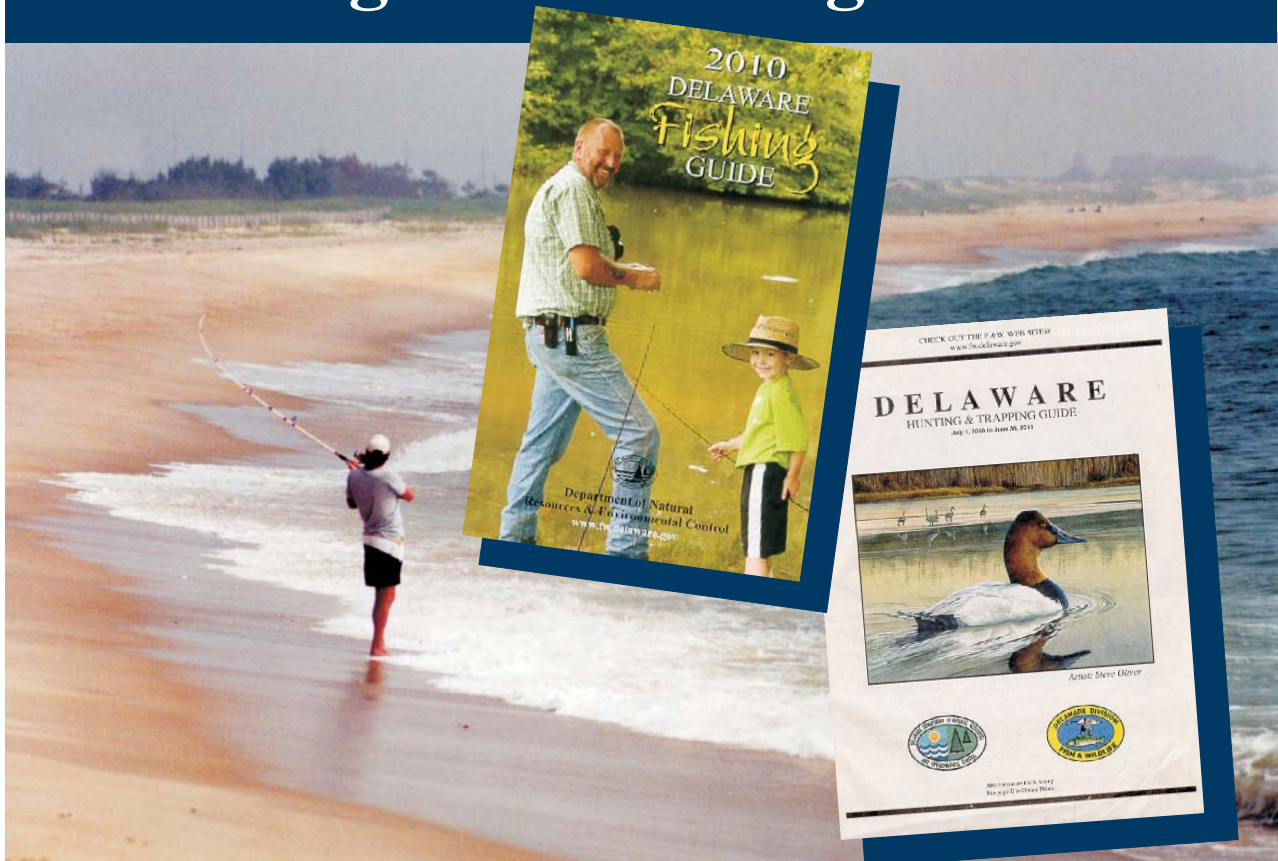
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